

STATE BOARD MEETING DATEJanuary 28, 2013**SUBJECT:** Consideration of Negotiated Settlement Agreement Case No. C-2010-016, Scott E. Worden**SUBMITTED BY:** Charles Easaw, Chief Investigator, Investigative Unit, State Board of Education**MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW:** January 10, 2013**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Scott E. Worden held a Substitute Teaching Certificate, which expired on May 17, 2012.

On December 15, 2009, the Investigative Unit for the State Board of Education ("Board") was made aware of Mr. Worden's arrest by the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office for failing to report molestation of a child. Although Mr. Worden knew a child had been a victim of sexual abuse, he failed to report the offense for a period of approximately seven days.

In or around January 2010, the District reassigned Mr. Worden to work exclusively in information technology. He has not been in a position supervising children since his reassignment.

On September 28, 2010, Mr. Worden pled guilty to the criminal misdemeanor offense of failing to report that a minor had been the victim of sexual abuse as he was obligated to do pursuant to A.R.S. § 13-3620.

On June 7, 2012, the Investigative Unit notified Mr. Worden of the intent of the State Board of Education to file a complaint seeking disciplinary action against his teaching certificate. After discussing the matter with Mr. Worden, a settlement agreement was proposed.

The Professional Practices Advisory Committee ("PPAC") reviewed the settlement agreement on November 13, 2012. The terms of the settlement agreement include the following:

- A suspension of certification through May 31, 2013.

The PPAC voted 4 to 1 to approve the Settlement Agreement for a Suspension against any and all teaching certificates held by Mr. Worden and that it be maintained as part of his permanent record. The PPAC's recommendation was based, in part, upon Mr. Worden's rehabilitation since the incident. The PPAC noted that Mr. Worden arranged for all district certified and classified employees to receive training on statutory reporting requirements; that he has been continuously employed by the district (though not in the classroom); and that the district intends to return him to the classroom after any disciplinary action is completed.

The dissenting vote was cast because the committee member was concerned about the age of the student at thirteen years.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: [] INFORMATION [X] ACTION/DESCRIBED BELOW:

That the Board **accepts** the recommendation of the PPAC and **issue a suspension of Scott E. Worden's teaching certificate through May 31, 2013**, and that all states and territories be so notified.

ATTACHMENTS: YES [X] NO []